



## **DANIEL SUÁREZ**

## **CommScope Toyota Camry Team Report**

Round 4 of 36 - FanShield 500k - Phoenix

Car No.: 96 – CommScope Toyota Camry

PR Contact: Laz Denes, True Speed Communication (704) 875-3388 ext. 806 or Laz.Denes@TrueSpeedCommunication.com)

**Primary Team Members:** 

Driver: Daniel Suárez

Crew Chief: Dave Winston

Handele Marie Slavida

Hometown: Monterrey, Mexico Hometown: Miami, Florida

Car Chief: Mark Hillman Engine Builder: Toyota Racing Development Hometown: Lockport, New York Headquarters: Costa Mesa, California

Engine Specialist: Kirk Butterfield

Spotter: Steve Barkdoll

Hometown: Carrollton, Ohio

Hometown: Garrison, Iowa

**Over-The-Wall Crew Members:** 

Gas Man: Cory White Front Tire Changer: Mike Mead

Hometown: Vinson, Iowa Hometown: Sherrills Ford, North Carolina

Jackman: Joel Bouagnon Rear Tire Changer: Brandon Traino Hometown: St. Charles, Illinois Hometown: Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Windshield: Mark Hillman Tire Carrier: Mason Harris

Hometown: Lockport, New York Hometown: Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia

**Road Crew Members:** 

Truck Driver: Gary "Turtle" Clem Tire Specialist: Liz Prestella

Hometown: Eaton, Ohio Hometown: South Lake Tahoe, California

Shock Specialist: David Stillman Mechanic: Cory White

Hometown: Appleton, Wisconsin Hometowns: Vinson, Iowa

Mechanic: Evan Snider Mechanic: Glenn "Cheeseburger" Hilchey

Hometown: Scottdale, Pennsylvania Hometown: Bennington, Vermont

## FanSheild 500k Notes of Interest:

- After piloting the No. 19 NASCAR Cup Series Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing in 2017 and 2018, then the No. 41 Cup Series entry for Stewart-Haas Racing in 2019, Suárez has joined the single-car No. 96 Toyota Camry effort for Gaunt Brothers Racing (GBR) for the full 2020 season.
- Suárez will be attempting to make his 111<sup>th</sup> career NASCAR Cup Series start in Sunday's FanShield 500k on the mile oval at **Phoenix Raceway**. He has career totals of eight top-five finishes, 32 top-10s and 241 laps led, with an average start of 15.5 and an average finish of 17.3. He also has qualified on the pole twice.
- In six previous Cup Series outings at Phoenix, Suárez has a pair of top-10s and another top-15 finish, and one top-10 qualifying effort. He finished seventh and eighth in the March 2017 and 2018 races, respectively, in the No. 19 Gibbs Toyota, and posted his best Phoenix qualifying effort of 10<sup>th</sup> in the November 2017 race. In his last Cup Series outing at Phoenix, Suárez started and finished 15<sup>th</sup> in his Stewart-Haas entry.
- Suárez scored his lone career **NASCAR Gander RV & Outdoors Truck Series** victory in the November 2016 race driving the **No. 51 Kyle Busch Motorsports Toyota**. He qualified second, led 34 laps, and beat runner-up **Johnny Sauter** by .510 of a second.

- Suárez also scored a Phoenix victory on the final lap of the February 2014 **NASCAR Peak Mexico Series** race there, crossing the finish line in his No. 3 Toyota .098 of a second ahead of runner-up Rodrigo Peralta. Suárez led 45 laps in all that race from his front-row starting position. He competed in the series based in his home country from 2009 through 2014. In 76 starts, he earned 10 victories, 26 top-five finishes, 39 top-10s and qualified on the pole 13 times. He had an average start of 8.7, an average finish of 12.4, led 1,216 laps, and had best finishes of second and third in the season standings in 2013 and 2012, respectively.
- In his five **NASCAR Xfinity Series** starts at Phoenix, Suárez reeled off three consecutive top-five finishes fourth in November 2015, third in March 2016 and fifth in November 2016 the latter two en route to winning the series championship in his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota.
- Suárez also competed in three NASCAR K&N Pro Series West races at Phoenix in 2011 and 2012 with a pair of front-row starts and a best finish of third in the March 2012 race driving the No. 76 Toyota.
- Crew chief **Dave Winston**, a native of Miami, Florida, and a veteran of 62 Cup Series races atop the pit box, called the shots at three previous races at Phoenix. He collaborated with driver **Alex Bowman** in the **No. 23 BK Racing Toyota** in the March 2014 race, starting 35<sup>th</sup> and retiring in 41<sup>st</sup> with brake issues, then returning for the November race with Bowman and scoring a 32<sup>nd</sup>-place finish from the 37<sup>th</sup> starting position. His driver **Michael McDowell** started 33<sup>rd</sup> and finished 26<sup>th</sup> in the April 2016 race driving the **No. 95 Leavine Family Racing** entry.
- This weekend marks the second Phoenix Cup Series start for the No. 96 Gaunt Brothers Toyota. In the March 2018 race, driver **D.J. Kennington** drove to 31<sup>st</sup>-place finish from the 34<sup>th</sup> starting position.
- At last Sunday's Auto Club 400 on the 2-mile Auto Club Speedway oval in Fontana, California, Suárez started 31<sup>st</sup> and the team executed a relatively clean race from start to a 28<sup>th</sup>-place finish. Suárez arrives at Phoenix 31<sup>st</sup> in the Cup Series standings, 106 points out of first.
- Coca-Cola and CommScope continue their respective partnerships with Suárez at Gaunt Brothers Racing. The iconic Coca-Cola brand has been with Suárez since 2015 when he won the Xfinity Series rookie-of-the-year title. CommScope, a leader in communication network technology, has been with Suárez through its ARRIS and Ruckus Networks brands since 2014, when he first competed in the Xfinity Series.

Daniel Suárez's Phoenix NASCAR Cup Series Performance Profile:

| Year | Date  | Event                    | Start | Finish | Status/Laps      | Laps Led | Earnings |
|------|-------|--------------------------|-------|--------|------------------|----------|----------|
| 2019 | 11/10 | Bluegreen Vacations 500k | 15    | 15     | Running, 312/312 | 0        | N/A      |
|      | 3/10  | Ticket Guardian 500k     | 28    | 23     | Running, 311/312 | 0        | N/A      |
| 2018 | 11/11 | Can-Am 500k              | 26    | 36     | Accident, 96/312 | 0        | N/A      |
|      | 3/11  | Ticket Guardian 500k     | 15    | 8      | Running, 312/312 | 0        | N/A      |
| 2017 | 11/12 | Can-Am 500k              | 10    | 18     | Running, 312/312 | 0        | N/A      |
|      | 3/19  | ◊Good Sam 500k           | 27    | 7      | Running, 314/314 | 0        | N/A      |

<sup>♦</sup> Race length was extended due to overtime finish

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Contact Laz Denes with True Speed Communication (704) 875-3388, ext. 806 or <u>Laz.Denes@TrueSpeedCommunication.com</u> www.TrueSpeedCommunication.com • Online Media Kit Available at: www.TrueSpeedMedia.com